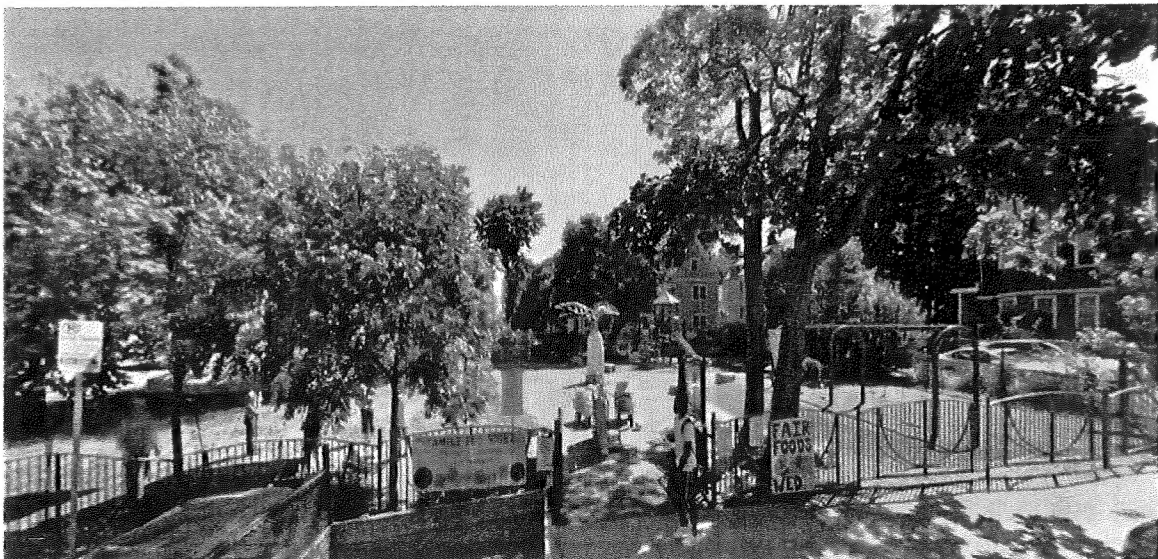


Eco-Teens

TALBOT-NORFOLK TRIANGLE

Walk Audit Report

August 2015



Elmburst Street Park and Playground

Eco-Teens TNT Walk Audit Report

August 2015

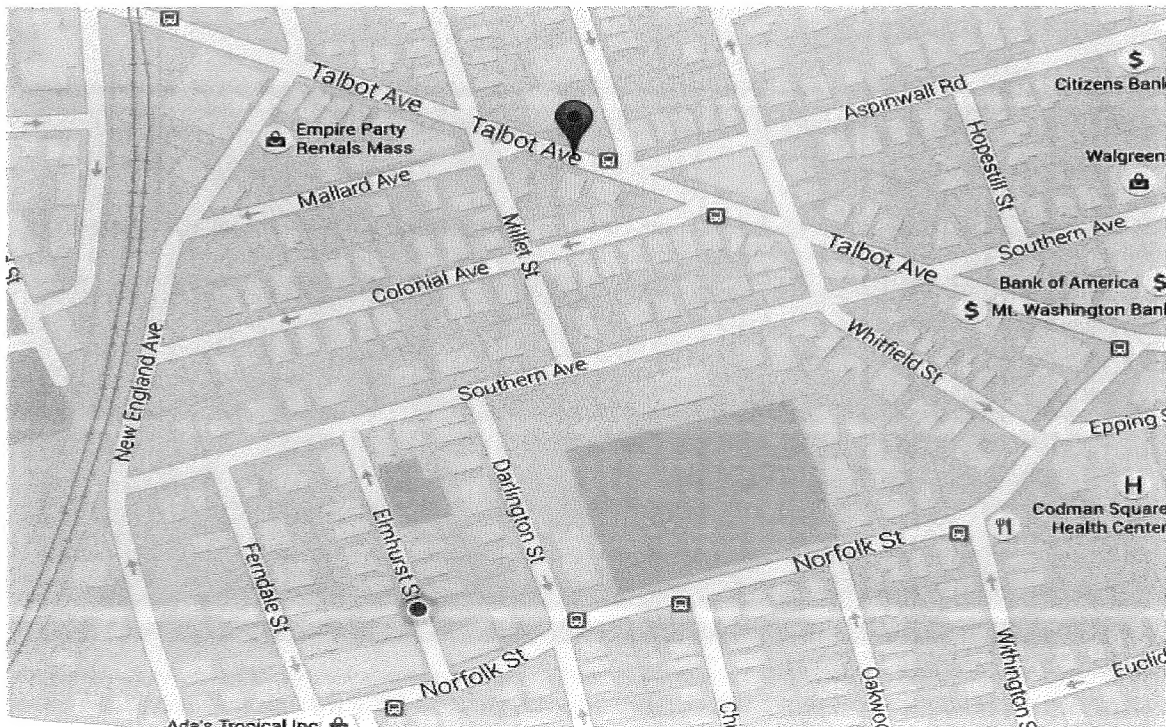
The purpose of the walk audit was to assess the walkability of the 13 different streets located in the Talbot-Norfolk-Triangle (TNT). The Eco-Teens used this information to recommend improvements for cleaner and safer streets.

The Talbot-Norfolk Triangle is a neighborhood of 13 streets located in the Codman neighborhood of Dorchester. This community is recognized as the "TNT Eco-Innovation District" because of the steps they have taken to be a greener and cleaner place.

The audits were conducted by the Eco-Teens over the span of a few weeks. They surveyed all 13 streets to observe the conditions and determine what needs to be improved. Some things they noted were traffic levels, sidewalk conditions, crosswalk conditions, and many other factors in what makes a clean, safe street.

The streets of TNT need much improvement. The positives of most streets in TNT include sidewalks and parking on both sides. There is also a good amount of greenery and the neighbors are very friendly. The downsides of TNT streets are that there are few crosswalks/poor-looking crosswalks, a huge lack of trash cans, unmaintained greenery, lots of speeding, and a lack of traffic signals.

Talbot-Norfolk-Triangle Eco-Innovation District



Recommendations

The Talbot-Norfolk Triangle is a wonderful area, but there is a lot we can do to improve it. Our main concerns are the lack of public trashcans, the lack of crosswalks, speeding, and the lack of maintenance done by the city.

On New England Ave., the sidewalks are broken to the point that it is a safety issue. There are also no public trashcans and that has resulted in New England Ave. being covered in garbage. See photo below. It would be extremely helpful to get public trashcans on New England Ave. now and to have the sidewalks repaired.

On Elmhurst St., cars often speed as much as twice the posted speed limit. This is especially dangerous because of the active playground that is on the street. Neighbors and the Eco-Teens agree that a speed table would help slow down cars and keep the children safe.

On Norfolk St., the lack of crosswalks causes pedestrians to jaywalk. Adding a few more crosswalks on Norfolk St. would help ensure the safety of pedestrians. Also, not all the WALK signals were working at Norfolk and Whitman when the audits were conducted.

In all the streets in TNT, there is a huge need for public trashcans. Putting at least one or two public trash cans on each street would keep littering to a minimum and would make the streets cleaner. The lack of crosswalks as well as faded crosswalks is a safety issue, so putting crosswalks on most streets (especially Norfolk St.) would help protect both drivers and pedestrians from any potential accidents. General maintenance of public greenery would also help keep the neighborhood feeling healthy and clean.

Overall, the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle is a great community that has neighbors who are passionate about making their neighborhood safe and clean. There is work to be done towards that, but with the city's help, we can make our community greener, cleaner, and safer.

Overview of Walking in the TNT

TNT is bounded by arterial streets on the north and south: Talbot and Norfolk. New England Avenue on the west is a minimal street that will be upgraded in the next several years.

Crossing Talbot and Norfolk is difficult because the cars exceed the speed limit, going from 20 – 40 mph. At Talbot there is not enough WALK time to comfortably cross the street. At Norfolk, the crosswalks are quite distant from one another, 542 (check) feet, resulting in many pedestrians jaywalking.

Traffic moves slowly on the interior streets, such as Darlington, Mallard, etc. and the teens felt comfortable walking along and across these streets. Trashcans and freshly painted crosswalks would be modestly priced improvements that greatly enhance the walking experience.



Eco-Teens Assessing Talbot-New England Ave Intersection Site of Bicycle Fatality

Also note faded crosswalks. Pedestrians need more WALK time to cross Talbot.



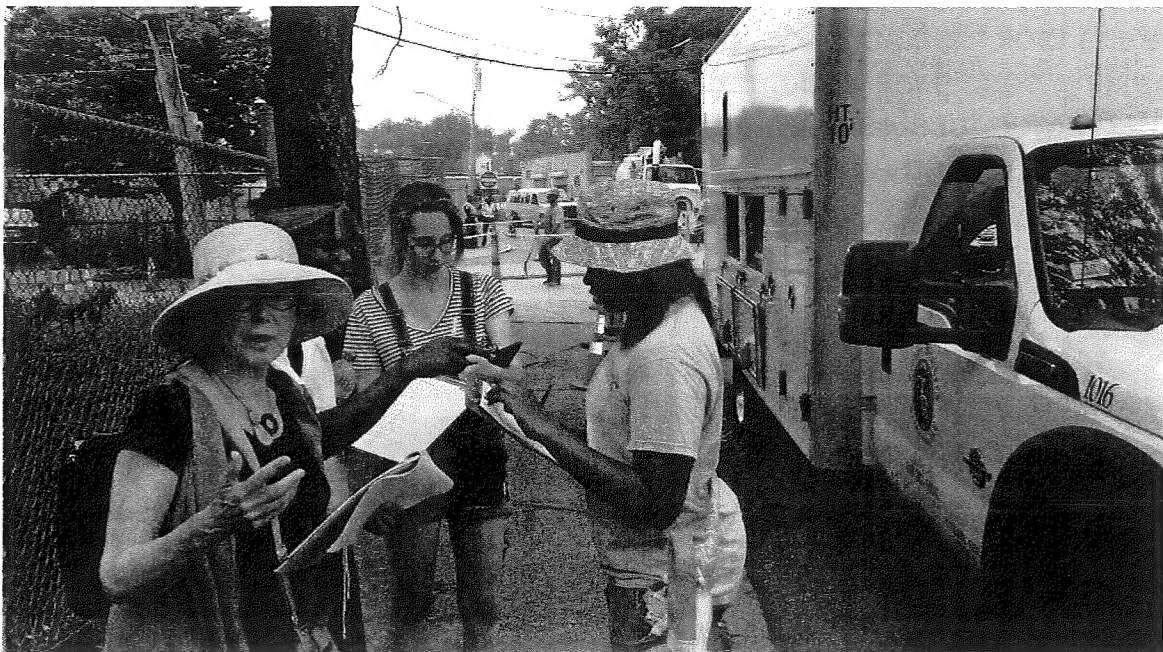
Eco Teens survey the overgrown sidewalks on New England Ave.

Undertaking the Walk Assessment

Teens took traffic speeds, measured sidewalks, took photos of walking conditions and completed walk survey forms. They also interviewed local residents, including the owner of a car repair shop on New England Ave.



Eco-Teen Measures Traffic Speeds on Talbot Ave.
Speeds on Talbot ranged from 20 – 40 mph.



Completing Walk Survey Forms

TNT Boundary Streets

New England Ave. North

(from Southern Ave. to Talbot Ave.)

Eco-Teens

July 13th, 2015 at 1:15pm

Weather: Sunny and Warm

STREET DESCRIPTION

New England Ave. North is a local street and there are two travel lanes. There are sidewalks and parking on both sides. There are no bike lanes.

TRAFFIC

New England Ave. North has a moderate vehicular and pedestrian traffic. There is a low bicyclist presence.

STREET CROSSINGS

Drivers can easily see pedestrians but there is not adequate time to cross on foot. There is one ladder-style crosswalk and there are no STOP signs.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIORS

The average speed of drivers is 20 mph and there was no speed limit posted. Walkers are not separated from the roadway by parking and pedestrians step out in front of cars.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL

There are two push button cross signals and there is adequate time to cross on foot.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The sidewalks are extremely poor. There is an abundant amount of trees but they are not maintained. There are no public trash bins so there is a huge amount of trash on the ground.

OVERALL

This street is very unattractive and needs a lot of repairing.

New England Ave. South

(from Norfolk St. to Southern Ave.)

Eco-Teens

July 27th, 2015 at 1:15pm

Weather: Warm

STREET DESCRIPTION

New England Ave. South is a local street with one travel lane. There is parking on both sides and there are no sidewalks or bicycle lanes.

TRAFFIC

There is a very low amount of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist traffic.

STREET CROSSINGS

There are no street crossings.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIORS

The estimated speed of cars is 10 mph and there is no speed limit posted. Walkers are not separated from cars and drivers often yield for pedestrians that are jaywalking.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The sidewalks are in very poor condition. There is an abundant amount of trees but there are no attractive buildings or trash bins.

OVERALL

This street is not welcoming and it needs a lot of work.

Norfolk St.

(From Talbot Ave. to Woodrow Ave.)

Megan Malkemes

July 20th, 2015 at 2:15pm

Weather: Sunny and Bright

STREET DESCRIPTION

Norfolk St is an arterial street with two lanes of traffic. There is parking and sidewalks on both sides and there are no bike lanes.

TRAFFIC

Vehicular and pedestrian traffic is very heavy, and there is a moderate amount of bicyclists.

STREET CROSSING

The sidewalks are about 7ft wide and the street is about 42ft wide. There is not adequate time to cross on foot and there are 4 crosswalks. The crosswalks are extremely distant from each other and drivers cannot easily see pedestrians. The longest distance between crosswalks is 528 ft. and the average distance between crosswalks is 295 ft.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOUR

The estimated speed of cars is about 20-40 mph and there is no speed limit posted. Walkers are separated from cars by parking but drivers often must yield for pedestrians that are jaywalking because of how spaced out crosswalks are.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The sidewalks are good and there is enough greenery. There are no public trash bins.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Norfolk street needs more crosswalks and trash bins.

NEEDS OF STREET

- More crosswalks (specifically in front of Elmhurst and in between Wentworth St. and Withington St.)
- Trash cans
- Bolder crosswalks

Talbot Ave.

(from New England Ave to Whitfield St.)

Martin Kelly

July 20th, 2015 at 1:45pm

Sunny

STREET DESCRIPTION

Talbot Ave. is an arterial street with two travel lanes. There are sidewalks and parking on both sides.

TRAFFIC

There is an extremely high vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic.

STREET CROSSINGS

There is not adequate time to cross the road and crosswalks are minimal.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIORS

The estimated speed of cars is 20-40 mph. The speed limit is posted and parked cars separate walkers. Drivers often yield for jaywalkers because there are not many crosswalks.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are push button cross signals but there is not adequate time to cross on foot. Walk is exclusive.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The condition of sidewalks is good and there is some greenery. There are some attractive buildings but there are no trash bins.

OVERALL

Streets needs to be improved but overall the area is fine.

NEEDS OF STREET

- Better crossing conditions, at least 20 seconds to cross with the WALK at Talbot and New England Avenue.
- Trash bins

Interior Streets

Darlington St.

Megan Malkemes

July 20th, 2015 at 2:00pm

Weather: sunny and warm

STREET DESCRIPTION

Darlington St. is a local street with one travel lane. There is parking and sidewalks on both sides and there are no bike lanes.

TRAFFIC

Darlington St. has a moderate amount of both vehicle and pedestrian traffic. There is not much bicycling done by adults, but there are many young kids who use the street to bike.

STREET CROSSINGS

The sidewalk width is about 6ft and the street width is about 27ft. There is adequate time to cross on foot but cars cannot see pedestrians easily due to the parking on both sides. There is one ladder-style crosswalk that is bold, but the street is long enough that it should have two (one on each end). There are no STOP signs.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOURS

The estimated speed of cars is about 20 mph and the speed limit is not posted. Walkers are separated from cars by parking, but because there is only one crosswalk, many pedestrians jaywalk and drivers often yield.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are no traffic signs or signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The conditions of the sidewalks are fine, but the street has a lot of unattractive shrubbery. Some of the buildings look fine but a few look old/burned, and there are no recycling or garbage bins.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Darlington St. has a lot of space, but it feels unwelcoming to walk down because of unmaintained greenery and trash.

NEEDS OF STREET

- Trash bins
- Remove unattractive greenery
- Get stop signs

- Get crosswalks on both ends of the street

Elmhurst St.

Megan Malkemes

July 20th 2015 at 1:40pm

Weather: Sunny

STREET DESCRIPTION

Elmhurst St. is a local street with one travel lane. There is parking and sidewalks on both sides and there are no bike lanes.

TRAFFIC

Elmhurst St. has a moderate amount of vehicle traffic and a heavy amount of pedestrian traffic. There are some adult bicyclists, but most are children.

STREET CROSSINGS

The sidewalk width is about 6ft and the street width is about 24ft. There is adequate time to cross on foot, but cars cannot easily see pedestrians due to parking on both sides. There are no crosswalks or curb extensions but there are STOP signs.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIORS

The estimated speed of cars ranges from 20-40 mph and the speed limit posted is 20 mph. Pedestrians are mostly separated from drivers by parking, and drivers very often yield for pedestrians that are jaywalking because there are no crosswalks or speed tables.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are no traffic signals, but there are STOP signs.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The sidewalk's condition is fair and greenery is abundant. The buildings look nice and there are some trash bins, but only one is public.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

This street is welcoming and warm but needs improvements to crossing.

NEEDS OF STREET

- A speed table
- More public trashcans
- Crosswalks on either end of the street

Ferndale St.

Megan Malkemes

July 20th, 2015 at 1:30pm

Weather: Sunny and Hot

STREET DESCRIPTION

Ferndale is a local street with one travel lane. There is parking and sidewalks on both sides. There are no bicycle lanes.

TRAFFIC

There is a moderate amount of vehicular traffic and a low amount of pedestrian traffic. There are few bicyclists.

STREET CROSSINGS

The sidewalks are about 5.5ft wide and the street is about 25ft wide. There is adequate time to cross on foot but there are no crosswalks. Drivers cannot easily see pedestrians and the only signage to protect pedestrians is a STOP sign.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOR

The estimated speed of drivers is about 10-20 mph. The speed limit is not posted and walkers are separated from cars by parking. Often drivers must yield for jaywalkers because there are no crosswalks.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The conditions of the sidewalks are fine, but the street is very unattractive. The houses are very old and the greenery is not maintained. There is a lot of trash because there are no trash bins at all.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The street is not maintained and needs care.

NEEDS OF STREET

- Trash cans
- Clean the greenery
- Crosswalks on either end of street
- Sign that posts speed limit

Whitman St.

Martin Kelly

July 20th, 2015 at 1:10pm

Weather: Sunny

STREET DESCRIPTION

Whitman is a local, dead-end street with one travel lane. There is parking and sidewalks on both sides. There are no bike lanes.

TRAFFIC

There is a low amount of vehicular traffic and a moderate amount of pedestrian traffic. Bicyclists are present.

STREET CROSSINGS

The sidewalks are about 6 and a 1/2ft wide and the street is about 24ft wide. The crosswalks are bold and there is adequate time to cross on foot. There are no curb extensions or stop signs.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOR

The estimated speed of cars is 10 mph and there is no speed limit posted. Walkers are separated from cars and drivers yield for pedestrians.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The sidewalks are fair and there is some greenery. There are no trash bins.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Whitman St. does not feel welcoming to all and needs better lighting.

NEEDS OF STREET

- Better lighting
- Better snow bank removal
- Needs to feel more welcoming
- Trash bins

Peacevale Ave.

Martin Kelly

July 20th, 2015 at 12:50pm

Weather: Sunny

STREET DESCRIPTION

Peacevale Ave. is a dead-end, local street with one travel lane. There is parking and sidewalks on both sides. The street connects to the TechBoston Academy parking lot and there are no bike lanes.

TRAFFIC

There is a low amount of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. There are almost no bicyclists.

STREET CROSSINGS

There is not adequate time to cross on foot but drivers can easily see pedestrians. There are too few crosswalks and there are no STOP signs.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIORS

The estimated speed of drivers is about 10 mph and there is not a speed limit posted. Walkers are separated from cars by parking and drivers often yield for pedestrians jaywalking.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There are no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The condition of the sidewalk is fair and there is some trees/greenery. There are no trash bins.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The street is not welcoming and needs improvement.

NEEDS OF STREET

- Trash bins
- More crosswalks

Southern Ave.

Ailys Pinet and Cachelie Johnson-Lewis

1:30pm on June 20th

Weather: Sunny (Hot, Muggy)

STREET DESCRIPTION

Southern Ave is a local street with two travel lanes and parking and sidewalks on both sides. There are no bicycle lanes because the street isn't wide enough for both two travel lanes and a bicycle lane.

TRAFFIC

The vehicular traffic was very low as was the pedestrian traffic with only one pedestrian observed during the audit.

STREET CROSSINGS

There were no crosswalks or any STOP signs.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN PATTERNS

The estimated speed of cars was 10mph-20mph and no speed limit posted anywhere. The walkers were not separated from the roadway by parking/grassy strip, but the drivers did yield for pedestrians when they stepped out in front of cars.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There were no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The conditions of the sidewalks were good and there was some presences of trees/greenery. There were no attractive buildings, some blank walls, parking lots or garbage/recycle bins.

OVERALL

This street is not inviting however I would walk in this area again.

Millet St.

Alain Thide

1:50pm 7/20/15

Weather: Hot, Warm

STREET DESCRIPTION

Millet is a local street with two travel lanes, parking is on both sides and well as sidewalks and there were no bicycle lanes.

TRAFFIC

The vehicular traffic was very low as well as the volume of pedestrians and we did not observe any bicyclists.

STREET CROSSINGS

There were no traffic signals and the crosswalks are too few and there is not really a designated pedestrian crossing.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN PATTERNS

The estimated speed of cars is 10 mph and there were no walkers separated from the roadway by parking/grassy strip. There were no drivers yielding for pedestrians or pedestrians stepping out in front of cars.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There were no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The conditions of the sidewalks were good, there was some presence of trees/greenery. There were parking lots and garbage/recycle bins in the area.

OVERALL

Millet Ave. needs more trash cans.

Colonial Ave.

Ailys Pinet and Cachelie Johnson-Lewis

2:00pm 7/20/15

Weather: Sunny (Hot)

STREET DESCRIPTION

Colonial is a local street with one travel lane, parking on both sides as well for the sidewalks on both sides and no bicycle lanes.

TRAFFIC

The vehicular traffic was very light as was the pedestrian volume and there were no bicyclists present.

STREET CROSSINGS

There were no STOP signs or crosswalks.

SPEED AND PEDESTRIAN PATTERNS

The estimated speed of cars was 10 mph. However, there were no posted speed limit signs and walkers were not separated from the roadway by parking/grassy strip. No drivers yielded for pedestrians or pedestrians stepping out in front of cars.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There were no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The condition of the sidewalks was fair and there was some presence of trees/greenery. There were no attractive buildings, but many blank walls. There were no garbage/recycle bins.

OVERALL

This street is inviting and safe for ALL users and I shall walk in this area again.

Mallard Ave.

Ailys Pinet and Cachelie Johnson-Lewis

2:10pm July 20th

Cloudy

STREET DESCRIPTION

Mallard is a local street with one travel lane and parking on both sides and sidewalks on both sides with no bicycle lanes.

TRAFFIC

The vehicular traffic was low and pedestrian volume moderate as for the bicyclists, there were only two present.

STREET CROSSINGS

There were no traffic signals. The crosswalks were bold zebra/ladder style, but too few of them. The crossings were easy for drivers to view pedestrians. There were curb extensions and a STOP sign.

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIORS

The estimated speed of cars was 10 mph and there were no speed limit posted and the walkers were separated from the roadway by grassy strips. The drivers did not yield for pedestrians and pedestrians did not step out in front of cars.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There were no traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The condition of the sidewalks was good and there were some trees/greenery and there were attractive parking lots, buildings and no blank walls. However, there were no garbage/recycle bins.

OVERALL

The street is inviting and safe for all users and I would walk in this area again.

Whitfield St.

Martin Kelly

1:30pm July 20th

Sunny

STREET DESCRIPTION

Whitfield is a local street with one travel lane and parking and sidewalks on both sides with no bicycle lanes.

TRAFFIC

The vehicular traffic was moderate, pedestrian volume was low and one bicyclist present.

STREET CROSSINGS

No crosswalks and no STOP signs. (STOP signs needed)

SPEED AND DRIVER/PEDESTRIAN BEHAVIOURS

The estimated speed of cars was 20mph-30mph, there was no speed limit posted and the walkers were separated from the roadway by parking/grassy strips. Drivers yielded for pedestrians when pedestrians stepped out in front of cars.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There aren't any traffic signals.

ATTRACTIVENESS

The condition of the sidewalks is fair; there is some presence of trees/greenery. No attractive buildings, blank walls, parking lots or garbage/recycle bins.

OVERALL

No the street is not inviting and not very well lit. There is garbage on the sidewalks and side of the street.